MARVEL
THE FURTHER ADVENTURES OF
INDIANA JONES™
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Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE FURTHER ADVENTURES OF

INDIANA JONES

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AUSTRALIA CAN BE A FRIENDLY PLACE.
SOMETIMES.
FOR EXAMPLE, WHEN AMERICAN ARCHEOLOGIST INDIANA JONES HAD ARRIVED IN DARWIN TWO WEEKS AGO, HE'D BEEN GREETED WITH SMILES, AND TREATED WITH GRACE. HE'D HAD A REAL GOOD FEELING ABOUT THE JOB AHEAD.
BUT THEN HE HIT THE DESERT.
SH-HWIP
SH-HWIP
SH-HWIP
THE GIBSON DESERT. A SEARING EXPANSE OF CRACKED ROCK AND BAKED EARTH WHERE HEAT AND SILENCE ARE BROKEN ONLY BY THE RAGING SWIRL OF SUDDEN SANDSTORMS--AND TODAY, IN INDY'S HONOR, BY THE DEADLY WHISPER OF POISONED, NEEDLE-POINTED SPEARS!
THE FOURTH NAIL
CHAPTER 1:
BLOOD AND SAND!

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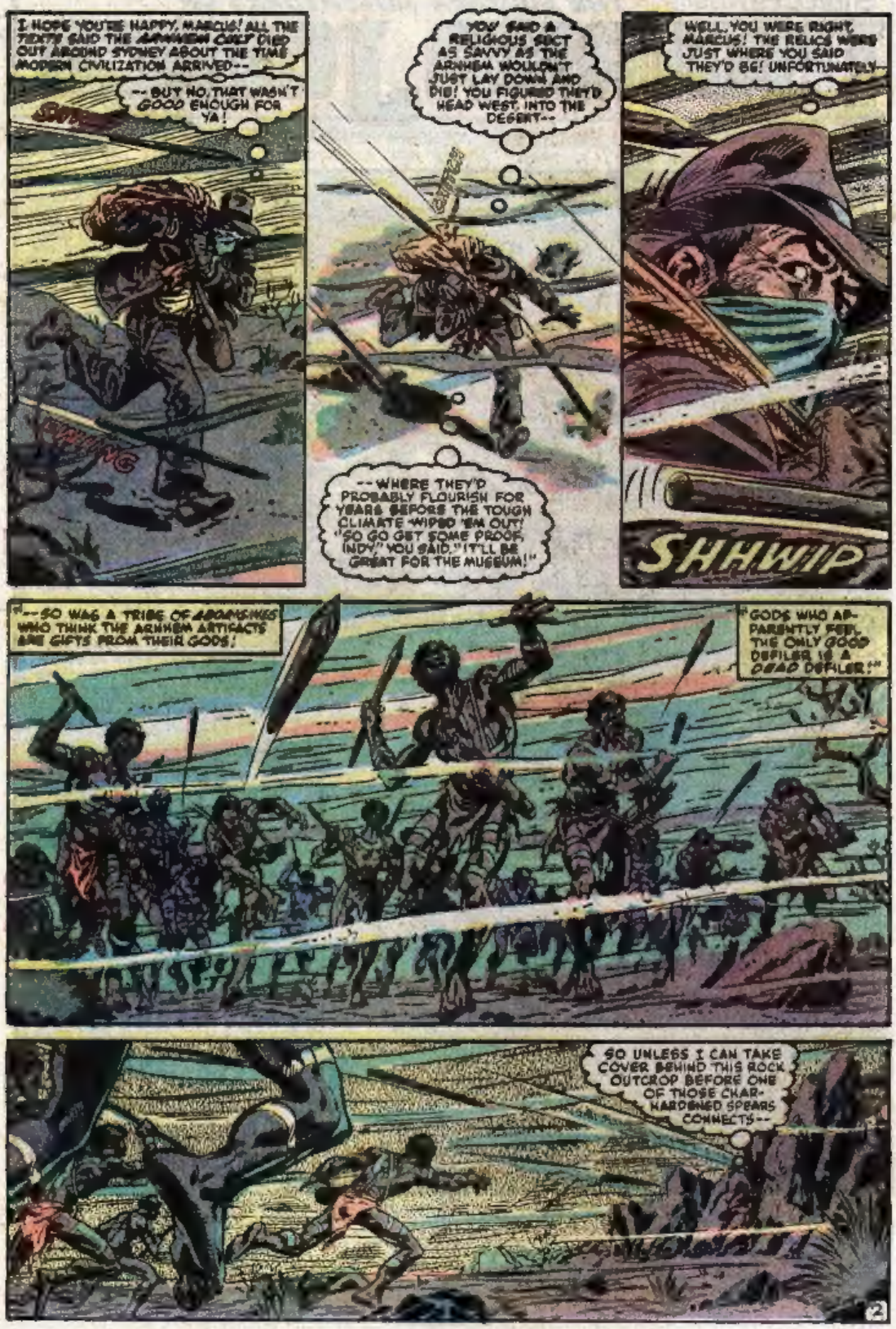
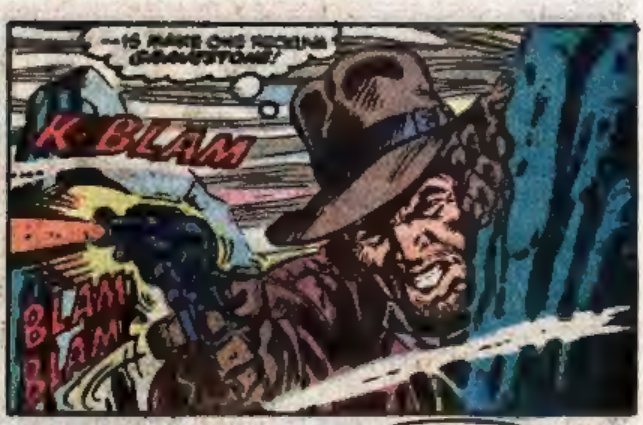
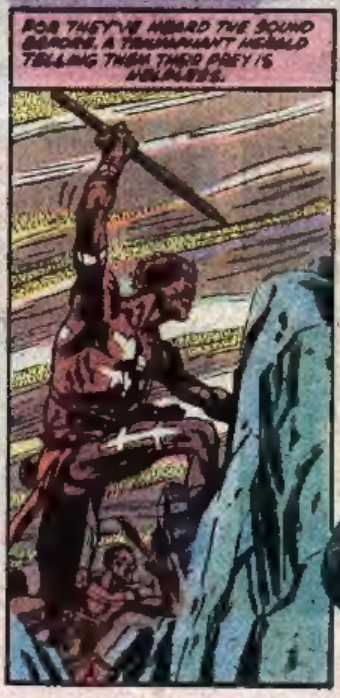

I HOPE YOU'RE HAPPY, MARCUS! ALL THE TEXTS SAID THE ARNHEM CULT DIED OUT AROUND SYDNEY ABOUT THE TIME MODERN CIVILIZATION ARRIVED--
-- BUT NO, THAT WASN'T GOOD ENOUGH FOR YA!
SWIPE
SWIPING
YOU SAID A RELIGIOUS SECT AS SAVVY AS THE ARNHEM WOULDN'T JUST LAY DOWN AND DIE! YOU FIGURED THEY'D HEAD WEST, INTO THE DESERT--
--WHERE THEY'D PROBABLY FLOURISH FOR YEARS BEFORE THE TOUGH CLIMATE WIPED 'EM OUT! "SO GO GET SOME PROOF, INDY," YOU SAID. "IT'LL BE GREAT FOR THE MUSEUM!"
WELL, YOU WERE RIGHT, MARCUS! THE RELICS WERE JUST WHERE YOU SAID THEY'D BE! UNFORTUNATELY--
SHHWIP
"--SO WAS A TRIBE OF ABORIGINES WHO THINK THE ARNHEM ARTIFACTS ARE GIFTS FROM THEIR GODS!
"GODS WHO APPARENTLY FEEL THE ONLY GOOD DEFILER IS A DEAD DEFILER!"
SO UNLESS I CAN TAKE COVER BEHIND THIS ROCK OUTCROP BEFORE ONE OF THOSE CHAR-HARDENED SPEARS CONNECTS--
2

--THE ONLY THING THIS CALEDONIAN KNOWS I WAS BRINGIN' BACK TO THE MUSEUM IS GONNA DO--


--IS MAKE ONE ROCKIN' GRAVESTONE!
K-BLAM
BLAM!
BLAM!

HRRUNGG--!
GYAAAAA!
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM

SIX HITS--BUT IT DIDN'T EVEN SLOW 'EM DOWN! AN' THERE'S NO TIME TO RELOAD!
THE DULL CLAP OF METAL ON METAL CUTS THROUGH THE BLOWING SANDS--A SOUND THAT EVEN THESE OUTBACK NATIVES UNDERSTAND.


FOR THEY'VE HEARD THE SOUND BEFORE. A TRIUMPHANT HERALD TELLING THEM THEIR PREY IS HELPLESS.

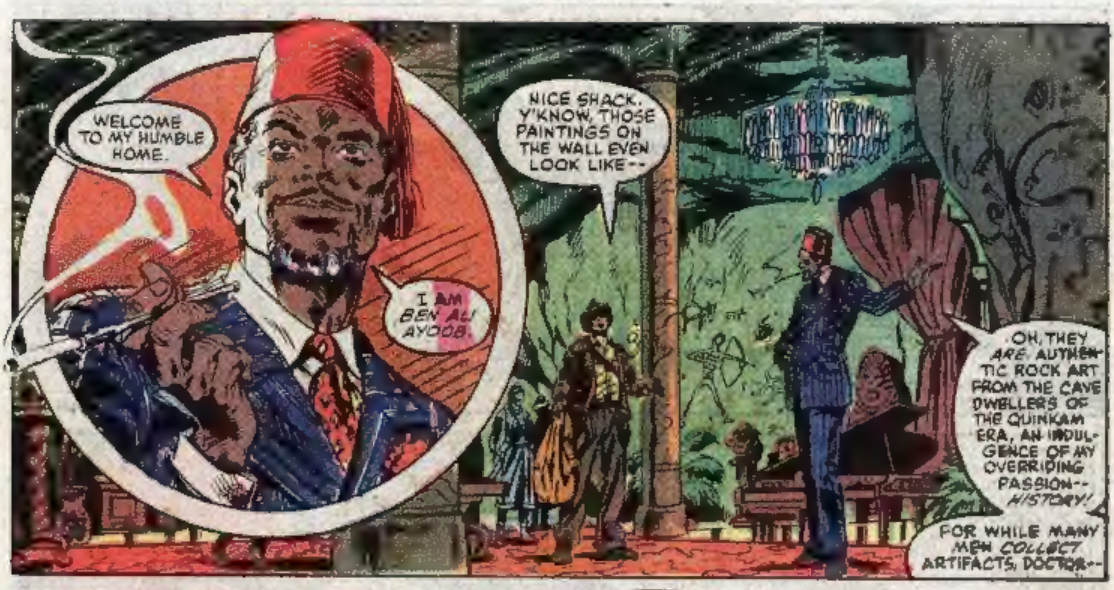
ONLY THIS TIME, THE HERALD LIES!
CRRACK

THESE WARRIORS AREN'T USED TO FACIN' A BULLWHIP! IT'S KEEPIN' 'EM CAUTIOUS, THROWIN' THEIR AIM OFF!
BUT MY ARM'S GETTIN' TIRED ALREADY!
HOWEVER, WITH ONE WELL-PLACED TOSS OF A FIBER-NET BOLA, THAT PROBLEM QUICKLY BECOMES--
DON'T KNOW HOW LONG I CAN KEEP THIS UP--!
--ACADEMIC!
WHNNN--?!
THROP!
4

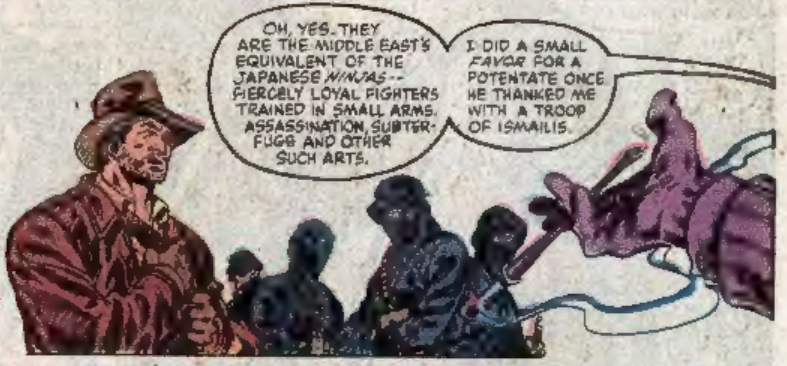
CONFIDENT, THE ATTACKERS MOVE CLOSER --
--LEATHER-GLOVED HANDS CURL INTO DESPERATE FISTS --
--AND SQUALLS RISE HIGH AS THE DESERT WIND GUSTS HARDER, MOANING FOR THE SOON-TO-BE-DEAD, THICKENING THE ALREADY SANDY AIR AND OBSCURING VISION --
--SO THAT INDY CAN BUT TENSE AND WAIT FOR THE INEVITABLE SOUND OF WOOD RIPPING FLESH, A SOUND THAT, SURPRISINGLY--
--NEVER COMES!
ARRGGH!
GHYYAAAA!
AAI, I I GGG!
WHAT THE--?!
AND THEN THE WIRY BOOTBOY NOT CAN ARE AGAIN,
TRULY BELIEVING HE'D SEEN...WELL...
...THAT'S ANOTHER BATTER BYTHEWAY!
THE ARCHAEOLOGIST --DEAD! ALL OF 'EM!
AND THREE MEN IN BLACK, HOLDING BLOODY SWORDS!
WHAT THE BLAZES IS GOIN' ON?!
5

PHUWHEE!
WAITAMINIT! THAT SIGNAL! A DOUBLE-TONED WHISTLE!
I'VE HEARD ABOUT A WHISTLE CODE LIKE THAT. BUT ONLY IN THE BARS AROUND CAIRO!
AND WHAT WOULD ARABS BE DOING IN THE MIDDLE OF AUSTRALIA?
YOU WILL PLEASE TO BE GETTING IN, DOCTOR JONES.
THEY EVEN KNOW MY NAME?!
UH, LOOK, FRIEND, I APPRECIATE YOUR HELP AND ALL, BUT--
PLEASE, DOCTOR, OUR MASTER WISHES YOU SAFE. YOU WILL TAKE YOUR BELONGINGS AND JOIN US IN THE VEHICLE. NOW.
THE SAVAGES WHO ATTACKED YOU MAY HAVE FRIENDS.
I, UM, GUESS YOU'VE GOT A POINT.
--IT LOOKS LIKE I DON'T HAVE A CHOICE!
GEARS, MESH, DEEP TORQUE BITE SAND, AND THE WELL-TIRED JEEP MOVES FORWARD BEGINNING A JOURNEY THAT WILL BE MADE IN SILENCE--
--AND WILL END AT A MOUNTAIN RANGE RUNNING THE GIBSON DESERT'S SOUTHEASTERN EDGE.
THE ENTRANCE TUNNEL IS THIS WAY, DOCTOR JONES. PLEASE TO BE MAKING HASTE.

THE MASTER IS MOST ANXIOUS TO GREET YOU PERSONALLY.
"MASTER"? WHAT KIND OF MASTER LIVES IN A HOLE IN THE GROUND?
BUT THE BLACK-ROBED WARRIORS DON'T ANSWER--THOUGH PERHAPS BEHIND THEIR SILKEN VEILS THEY DO SMILE A BIT. FOR AS INDY FOLLOWS THE SMOOTH CONTOURS OF THE UNDERGROWTH PASSAGE HEADING EVER DEEPER INTO THE WAITING MOUNTAIN--
--HE IS SOON TO REALIZE THAT THERE ARE "HOLES"--
WHA...?
--AND THERE ARE "HOLES"!
REGARD--THE MASTER!
THERE ARE FEW MEN IN THIS WORLD WHOM I RESPECT, PROFESSOR JONES. AND THERE ARE EVEN FEWER WHOM I ADMIRE.
YOU ARE BOTH.

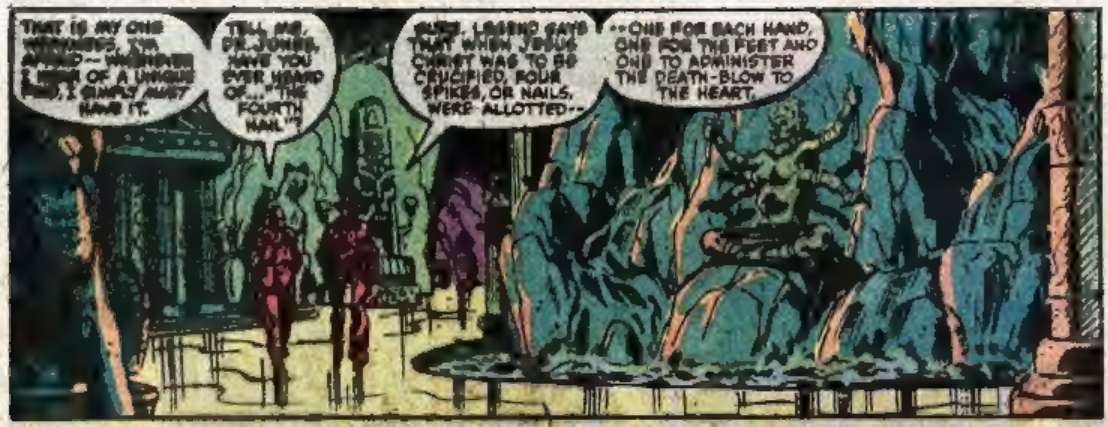

WELCOME TO MY HUMBLE HOME.
I AM BEN ALI AYOOB.
NICE SHACK. Y'KNOW, THOSE PAINTINGS ON THE WALL EVEN LOOK LIKE--
OH, THEY ARE AUTHENTIC ROCK ART FROM THE CAVE DWELLERS OF THE QUINKAM ERA, AN INDULGENCE OF MY OVERRIDING PASSION-- HISTORY!
FOR WHILE MANY MEN COLLECT ARTIFACTS, DOCTOR--

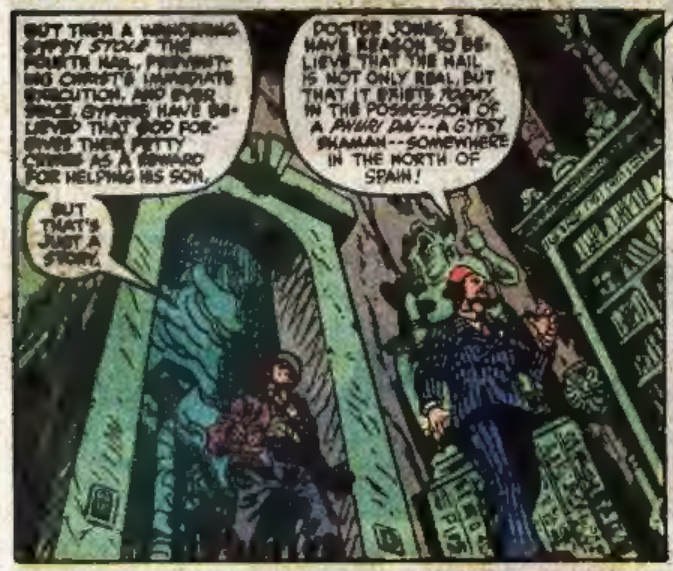
--HOW MANY LIVE IN ONE? IN FACT, IT WAS MY INTEREST IN RELICS OF THE PAST THAT PROMPTED ME TO DISPATCH MY ISMAILIS TO BRING YOU HERE.
"ISMAILIS," EH? THAT WHAT YOU CALL 'EM?


OH, YES. THEY ARE THE MIDDLE EAST'S EQUIVALENT OF THE JAPANESE NINJAS-- FIERCELY LOYAL FIGHTERS TRAINED IN SMALL ARMS, ASSASSINATION, SUBTERFUGE AND OTHER SUCH ARTS.
I DID A SMALL FAVOR FOR A POTENTATE ONCE. HE THANKED ME WITH A TROOP OF ISMAILIS.

THEY PROVE USEFUL FROM TIME TO TIME.
BUT COME. YOU ARE CURIOUS. I WILL SHOW YOU MORE OF MY LITTLE COUNTRY HOME.
LOOKS MORE LIKE A LITTLE COUNTRY TO ME!

IT SUITS MY NEEDS. I AM ACTUALLY HEADQUARTERED IN SWITZERLAND, BUT HAVE ESTABLISHED SEVERAL OF THESE SECONDARY ABODES AROUND THE WORLD IN ORDER TO HOUSE MY COLLECTION.


THAT IS MY ONE WEAKNESS, I'M AFRAID -- WHENEVER I HEAR OF A UNIQUE RELIC, I SIMPLY MUST HAVE IT.
TELL ME, DR. JONES, HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF... "THE FOURTH NAIL"?
ALSO, LEGEND SAYS THAT WHEN JESUS CHRIST WAS TO BE CRUCIFIED, FOUR SPIKES, OR NAILS, WERE ALLOTTED--
--ONE FOR EACH HAND, ONE FOR THE FEET AND ONE TO ADMINISTER THE DEATH-BLOW TO THE HEART.


BUT THEN A WANDERING GYPSY STOLE THE FOURTH NAIL, PREVENTING CHRIST'S IMMEDIATE RESURRECTION. AND EVER SINCE, GYPSIES HAVE BELIEVED THAT GOD FORGIVES THEIR PETTY CRIMES AS A REWARD FOR HELPING HIS SON.
BUT THAT'S JUST A STORY.
DOCTOR JONES, I HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THE NAIL IS NOT ONLY REAL, BUT THAT IT EXISTS TODAY, IN THE POSSESSION OF A *ROMANI RAI*--A GYPSY SHAMAN--SOMEWHERE IN THE NORTH OF SPAIN!

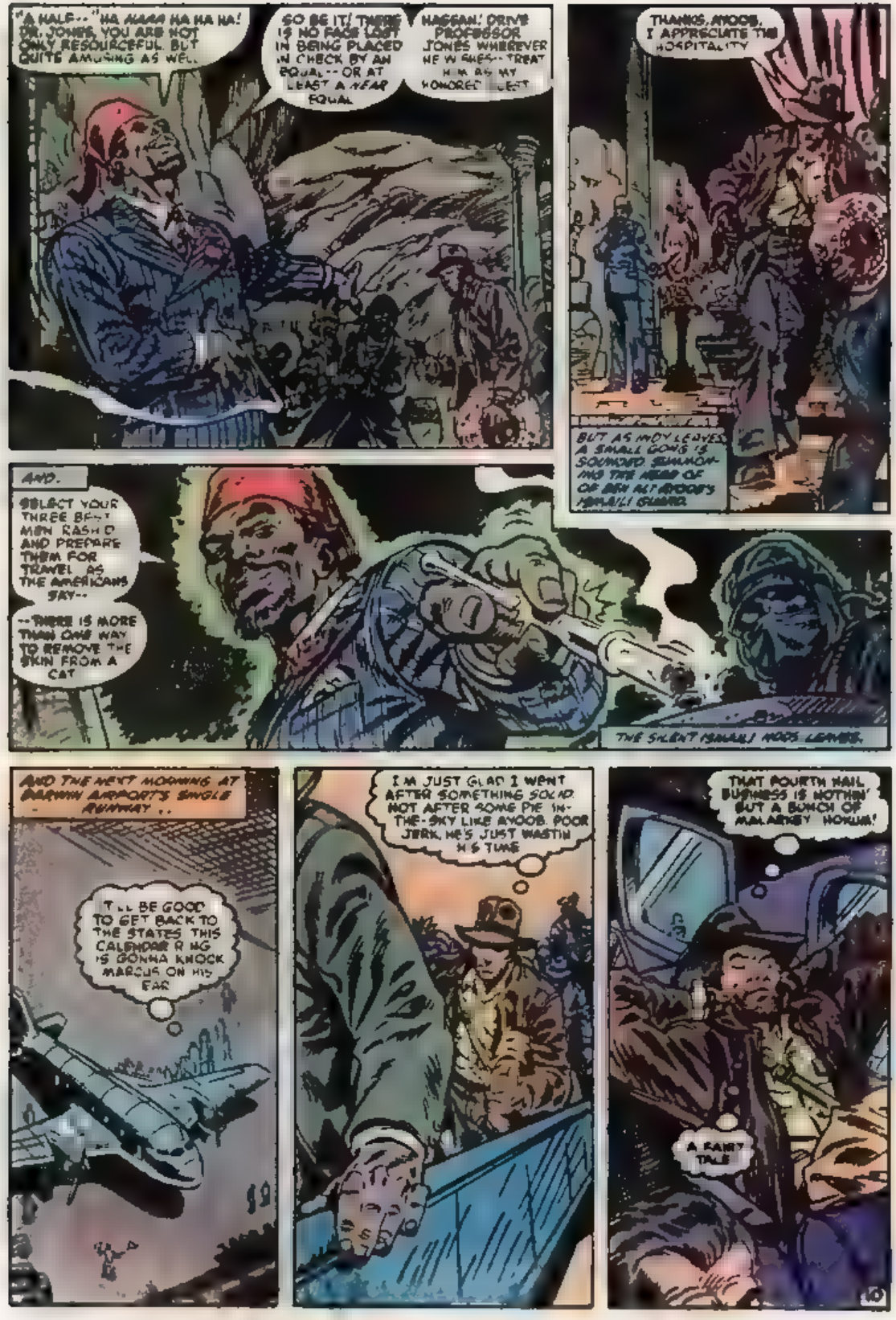
AND WHEN MY SOURCES TOLD ME THAT YOU WERE IN AUSTRALIA, I KNEW YOU WERE THE ONE TO OBTAIN IT FOR ME, FOR YOU ARE THE BEST AT WHAT YOU DO, INDIANA JONES--
--AND I SETTLE FOR NOTHING *BUT* THE BEST!

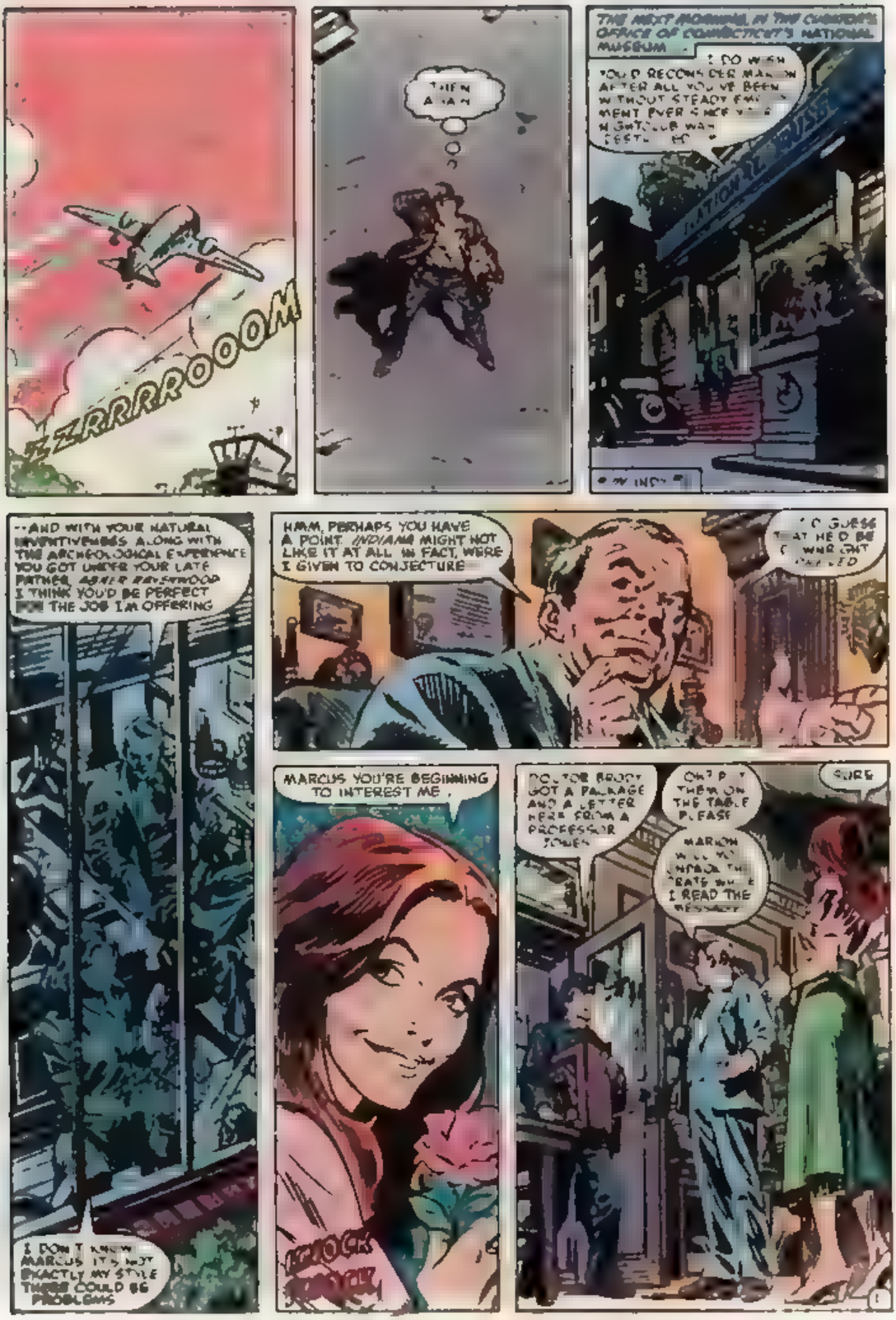
MEINE--TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS AMERICAN. THERE WILL BE ANOTHER FIFTEEN WHEN YOU HAND THE NAIL OVER TO ME.
SORRY, AYOOB, I ALREADY HAVE A WORKING ARRANGEMENT WITH THE NATIONAL MUSEUM. I'M NOT FOR HIRE.

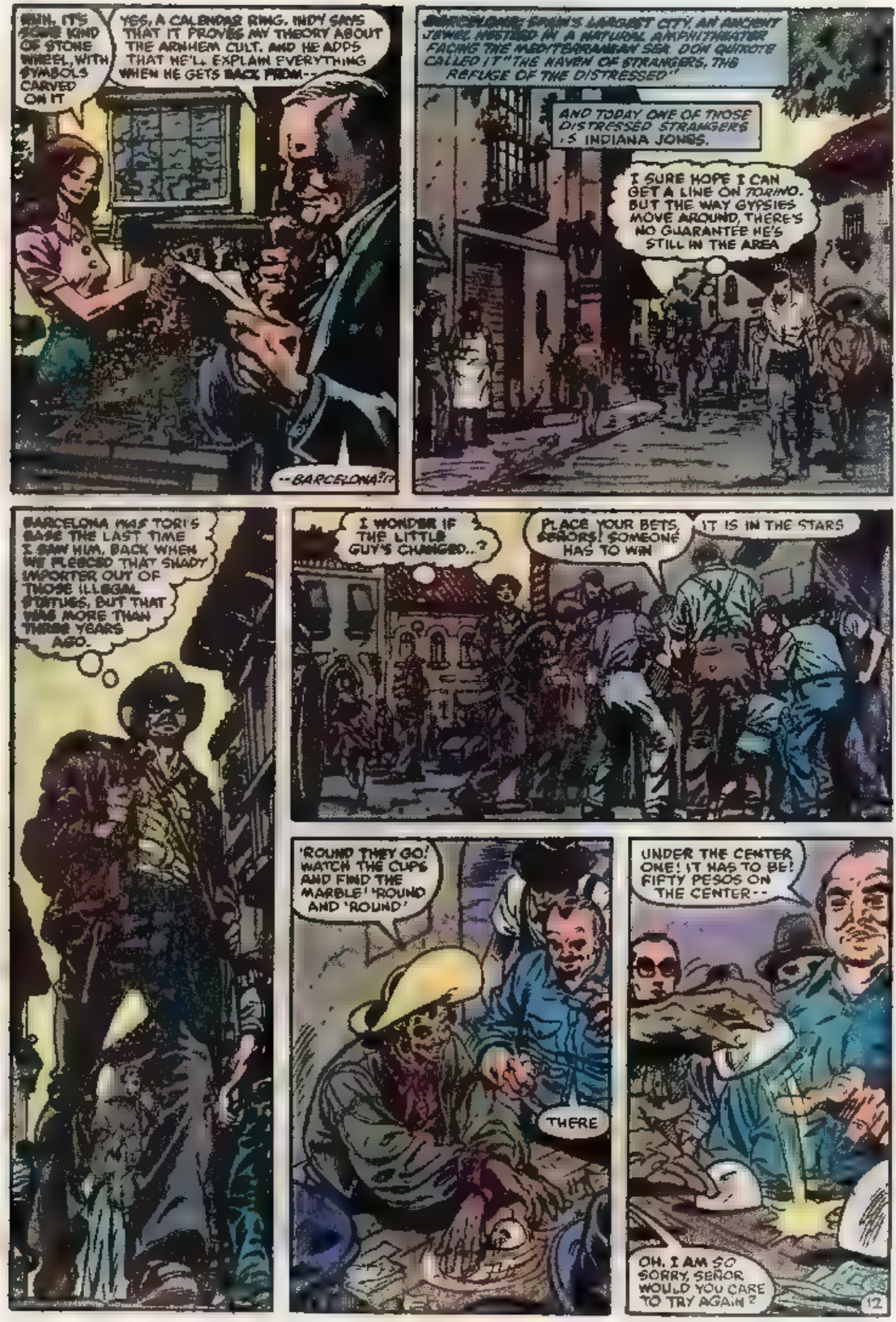
OH? THEN PERHAPS I SHOULD CONTENT MYSELF WITH TAKING THAT LITTLE BAUBLE YOU BROUGHT WITH YOU--A CALENDAR RING, IS IT NOT?
UNLESS, OF COURSE, YOU CAN THINK OF A REASON WHY I SHOULDN'T!

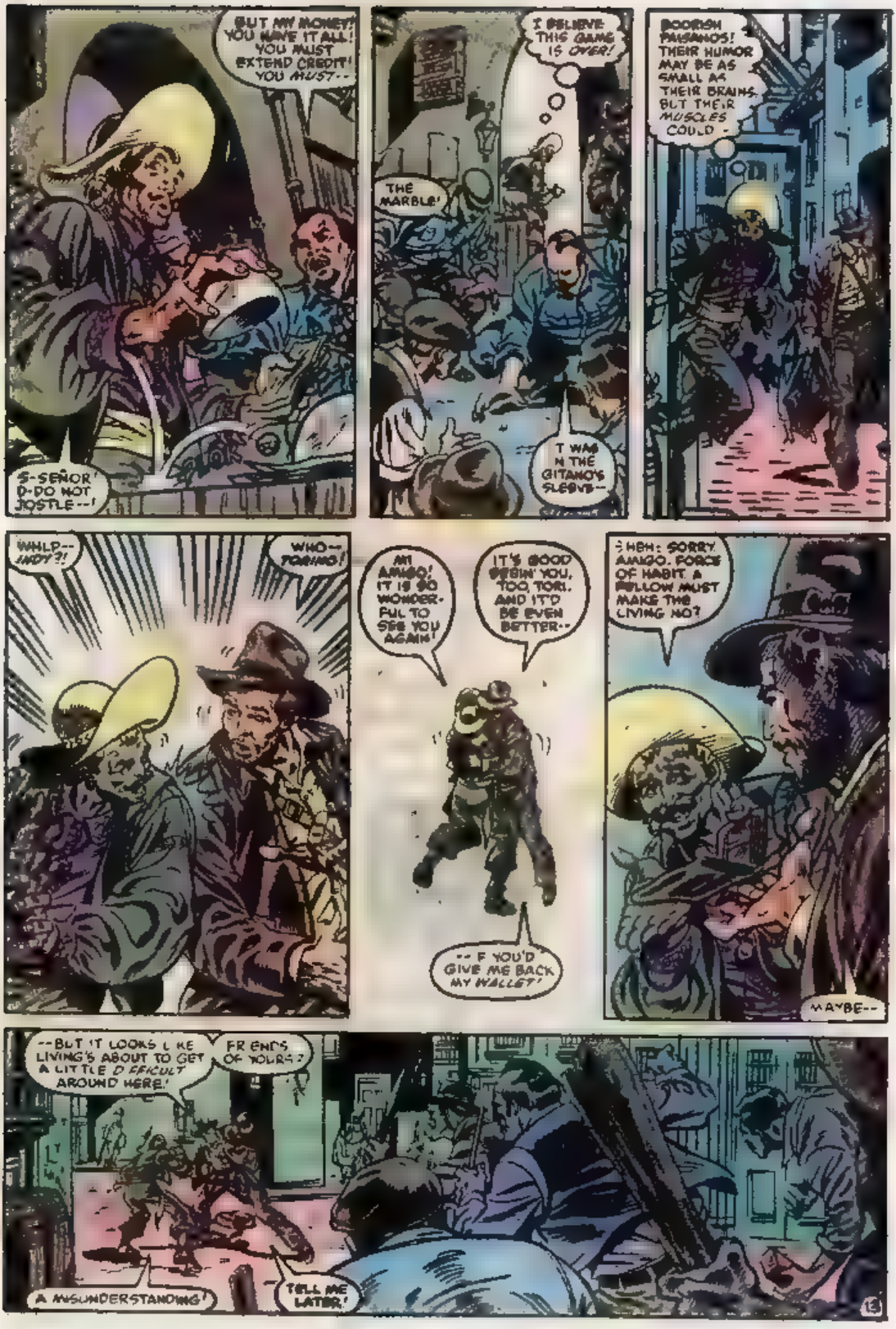
A REASON? PAL--

--I GOT A *HALF-DOZEN* OF 'EM!
9

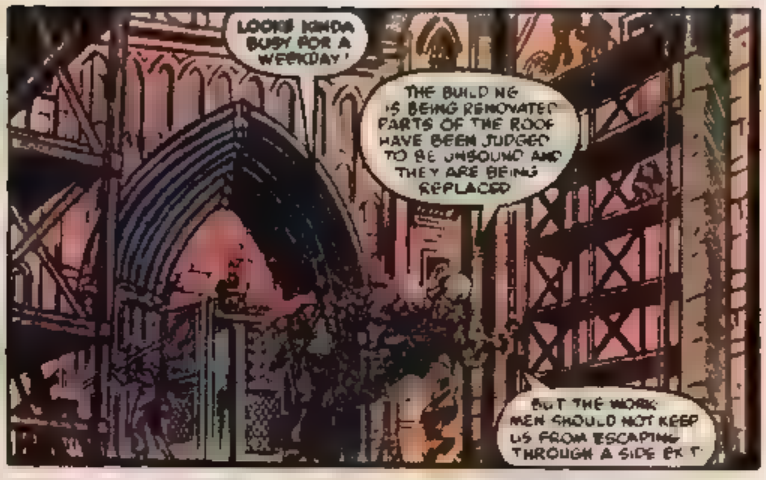

"A HALF--" HA HAAA HA HA HA! DR. JONES, YOU ARE NOT ONLY RESOURCEFUL BUT QUITE AMUSING AS WELL
SO BE IT! THERE IS NO FACE LOST IN BEING PLACED IN CHECK BY AN EQUAL--OR AT LEAST A NEAR EQUAL
HAGGAN! DRIVE PROFESSOR JONES WHEREVER HE WISHES--TREAT HIM AS MY HONORED GUEST
THANKS, AHOOB, I APPRECIATE THE HOSPITALITY
BUT AS INDY LEAVES A SMALL GONG IS SOUNDED SUMMONING THE HEAD OF OF BEN ALI AHOOB'S ISMAILI GUARD
AND.
SELECT YOUR THREE BEST MEN RASHID AND PREPARE THEM FOR TRAVEL AS THE AMERICANS SAY--
--THERE IS MORE THAN ONE WAY TO REMOVE THE SKIN FROM A CAT
THE SILENT ISMAILI NODS LEAVES.
AND THE NEXT MORNING AT DARWIN AIRPORT'S SINGLE RUNWAY..
I'LL BE GOOD TO GET BACK TO THE STATES THIS CALENDAR RING IS GONNA KNOCK MARCUS ON HIS EAR
I'M JUST GLAD I WENT AFTER SOMETHING SOLID NOT AFTER SOME PIE IN-THE-SKY LIKE AHOOB. POOR JERK, HE'S JUST WASTIN HIS TIME
THAT FOURTH HAIL BUSINESS IS NOTHIN' BUT A BUNCH OF MALARKEY HOKUM!
A FAIRY TALE
10


ZZRRRROOOM
THEN A MAN
THE NEXT MORNING IN THE CURATOR'S OFFICE OF CONNECTICUT'S NATIONAL MUSEUM
I DO WISH YOU'D RECONSIDER MARION AFTER ALL YOU'VE BEEN WITHOUT STEADY EMPLOYMENT EVER SINCE
NATIONAL BANK
--AND WITH YOUR NATURAL INVENTIVENESS ALONG WITH THE ARCHEOLOGICAL EXPERIENCE YOU GOT UNDER YOUR LATE FATHER, ASHER HAWTHORNE, I THINK YOU'D BE PERFECT FOR THE JOB I'M OFFERING
I DON'T KNOW MARCUS IT'S NOT EXACTLY MY STYLE THERE COULD BE PROBLEMS
HMM, PERHAPS YOU HAVE A POINT. INDIANA MIGHT NOT LIKE IT AT ALL. IN FACT, WERE I GIVEN TO CONJECTURE
I GUESS THAT HE'D BE
MARCUS YOU'RE BEGINNING TO INTEREST ME
KNOCK KNOCK
DOCTOR BROOT GOT A PACKAGE AND A LETTER HERE FROM A PROFESSOR JONES
OH? PUT THEM ON THE TABLE PLEASE
MARION WILL YOU UNPACK THE CRATE WHILE I READ THE
SURE


HMM. IT'S SOME KIND OF STONE WHEEL, WITH SYMBOLS CARVED ON IT
YES, A CALENDAR RING. INDY SAYS THAT IT PROVES MY THEORY ABOUT THE ARNHEM CULT. AND HE ADDS THAT HE'LL EXPLAIN EVERYTHING WHEN HE GETS BACK FROM--
--BARCELONA?!?
BARCELONA, SPAIN'S LARGEST CITY, AN ANCIENT JEWEL NESTLED IN A NATURAL AMPHITHEATER FACING THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA. DON QUIXOTE CALLED IT "THE HAVEN OF STRANGERS, THE REFUGE OF THE DISTRESSED"
AND TODAY ONE OF THOSE DISTRESSED STRANGERS IS INDIANA JONES.
I SURE HOPE I CAN GET A LINE ON TORINO. BUT THE WAY GYPSIES MOVE AROUND, THERE'S NO GUARANTEE HE'S STILL IN THE AREA
BARCELONA WAS TORI'S BASE THE LAST TIME I SAW HIM, BACK WHEN HE FLEECED THAT SHADY IMPORTER OUT OF THOSE ILLEGAL STATUES, BUT THAT WAS MORE THAN THREE YEARS AGO.
I WONDER IF THE LITTLE GUY'S CHANGED..?
PLACE YOUR BETS, SEÑORS! SOMEONE HAS TO WIN
IT IS IN THE STARS
'ROUND THEY GO! WATCH THE CUPS AND FIND THE MARBLE! 'ROUND AND 'ROUND'
THERE
UNDER THE CENTER ONE! IT HAS TO BE! FIFTY PESOS ON THE CENTER--
OH, I AM SO SORRY, SEÑOR. WOULD YOU CARE TO TRY AGAIN?
12


BUT MY MONEY! YOU HAVE IT ALL! YOU MUST EXTEND CREDIT! YOU MUST--
S-SEÑOR D-DO NOT JOSTLE--!
I BELIEVE THIS GAME IS OVER!
THE MARBLE!
I WAS N THE GITANO'S SLEEVE--
BOORISH PAISANOS! THEIR HUMOR MAY BE AS SMALL AS THEIR BRAINS, BUT THEIR MUSCLES COULD -
WHUP-- INDY?!
WHO-- TOHNO!
MI AMIGO! IT IS SO WONDERFUL TO SEE YOU AGAIN!
IT'S GOOD SEEIN' YOU, TOO, TORI. AND IT'D BE EVEN BETTER--
-- F YOU'D GIVE ME BACK MY WALLET!
HEH-HEH-- SORRY AMIGO. FORCE OF HABIT. A FELLOW MUST MAKE THE LIVING NO?
MAYBE--
--BUT IT LOOKS LIKE LIVING'S ABOUT TO GET A LITTLE DIFFICULT AROUND HERE!
FRIENDS OF YOURS?
A MISUNDERSTANDING!
TELL ME LATER!
14

THIS WAY WE CAN LOSE THEM IN THE CATHEDRAL


LOOKS KINDA BUSY FOR A WEEKDAY
THE BUILDING IS BEING RENOVATED PARTS OF THE ROOF HAVE BEEN JUDGED TO BE UNSOUND AND THEY ARE BEING REPLACED
BUT THE WORKMEN SHOULD NOT KEEP US FROM ESCAPING THROUGH A SIDE EXIT

O ON THE OTHER HAND THEY MIGHT
NOW WE WILL TAKE WHAT IS OURS, COMRADES! FROM THEIR POCKETS -- OR FROM THEIR ARSES!

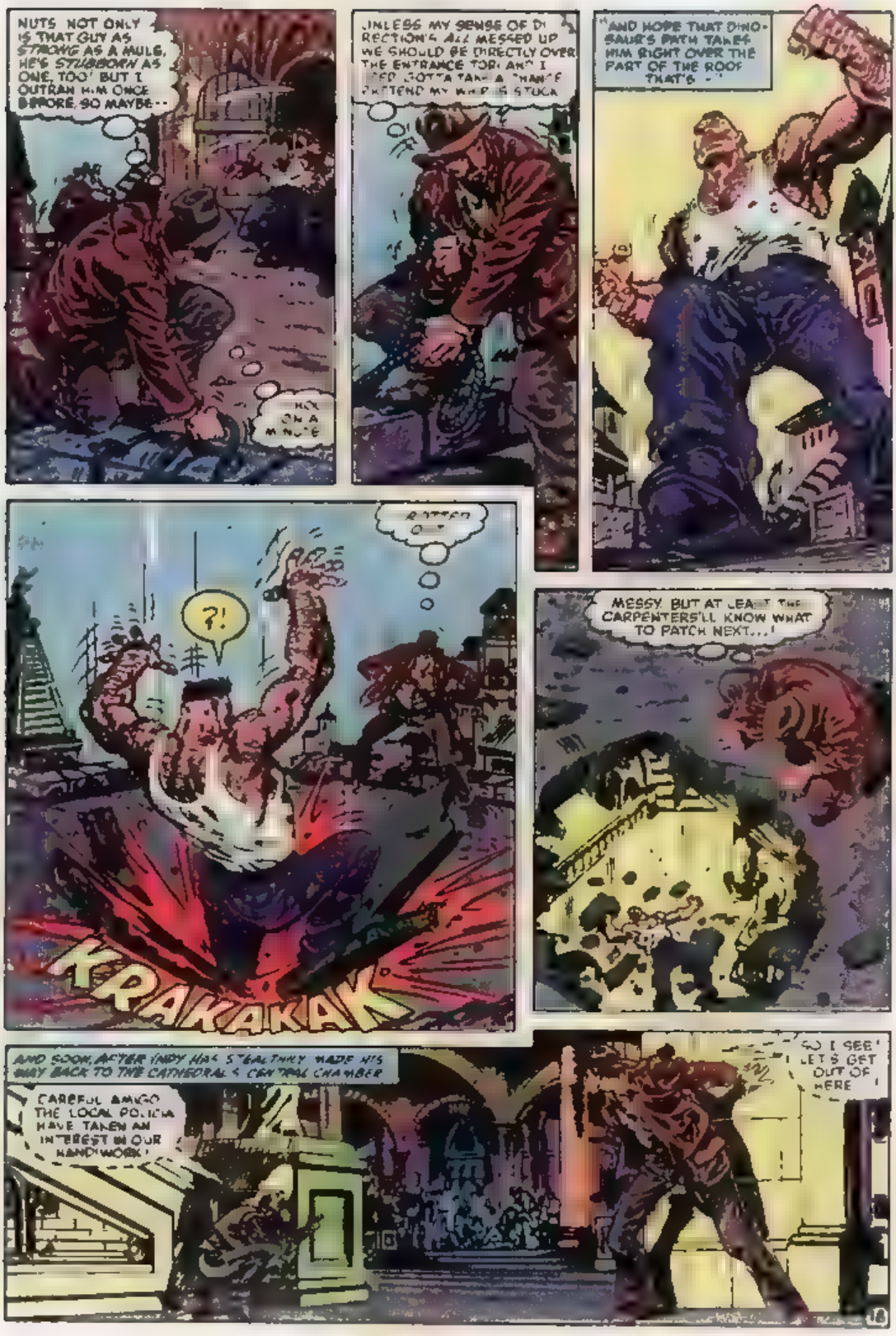
STAY BACK, TORI! NONE O THESE GUYS SEEM TO HAVE GUNS SO MAYBE I CAN SCARE 'EM OFF WITH --

-- BLAST I'M STARTIN TO GET A LITTLE TIRED O' BOLAS, BUT I GUESS IF I CAN'T LICK 'EM --

-- I CAN AT LEAST USE 'EM!
KRAK!
CARAMBA I AM NOT MUCH THE FIGHTER!
BUT WITH OPPONENTS SUCH AS THESE--
CHASH!
I DO NOT NEED TO BE!
I SEE WHAT YA MEAN THESE JOKERS AREN'T EXACTLY PROFESSIONALS. WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO PUT 'EM AWAY WITHOUT MUCH
UH...?
KAWHAM

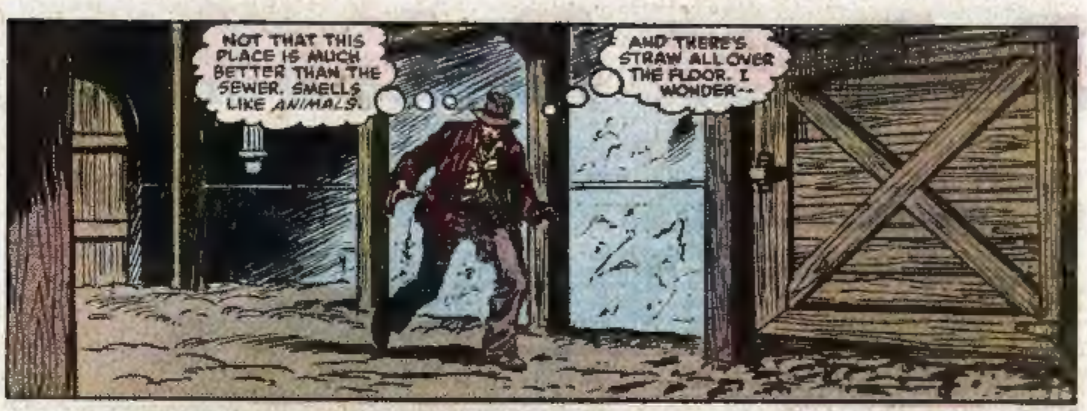
GRUNCH
THIS GUY'S GONNA KILL ME!
THRAK
AND NO STRAY PIECE O' LUMBER'S GONNA STOP 'M, EITHER!
I'D BETTER HEAD FOR THE HIGH GROUND!
GOOD THING TOR! SEEMS TO BE HOLDING HIS OWN AGAINST THE OTHERS NOT THAT THERE'S A LOT I COULD DO IF HE WASN'T--
--BUT AT LEAST NOW I CAN MAKE MY STRATEGIC RETREAT WITH A CLEAR CONSCIENCE!
SECONDS LATER
EY, GRINGO! WHERE YOU GO? I WANT TO SEE HOW MANY PIECES I CAN TEAR YOU INTO!
WHUK
K-BONG
I DON'T!

NICE MOVE, GRINGO, BUT IT WON'T HELP YOU! THERE IS NO PLACE TO RUN
YOU ARE MINE!
HE'S RIGHT ABOUT ONE THING--THERE'S NO EXIT UNLESS I CAN MAKE ONE MYSELF!
GOTTA SHARE THE GARGOYLE ON THAT OPPOSITE TOWER, THEN SWING OVER TO --
SKRRRRK
--AW-- NO! THE SCULPTURE'S SNAPPIN OFF AND THERE'S NOTH'N ELSE TO LASH ONTO
--AP DOBS--
NO WAY TO BREAK MY FALL! NOT UNLESS I CAN SNAG THE BUTT END OF MY WHIP ON SOMETHING! ANYTHING
WHICH AFTER SEVERAL CURSES AND FOUR FITFUL TIMES --
; WHEW! BUT I COULDN'T DO THAT AGAIN IF MY LIFE DEPENDED ON-- WHAT AM I SAYING
IT DID!
ANYWAY I'M STILL IN ONE PIECE AND AT LEAST MY LITTLE FREE-FALL GOT ME AWAY FROM THAT OVER-MUSCLED SONOVA--
GRINGO!


NUTS! NOT ONLY IS THAT GUY AS STRONG AS A MULE, HE'S STUBBORN AS ONE, TOO! BUT I OUTRAN HIM ONCE BEFORE, SO MAYBE...
NO, ON A MULE
UNLESS MY SENSE OF DIRECTION'S ALL MESSED UP WE SHOULD BE DIRECTLY OVER THE ENTRANCE TOMB AND I JUST GOTTA TAKE A CHANCE PRETEND MY WHIP IS STUCK
"AND HOPE THAT DINOSAUR'S PATH TAKES HIM RIGHT OVER THE PART OF THE ROOF THAT'S--"
?!
RATTLED--
KRAKAKAK
MESSY, BUT AT LEAST THE CARPENTERS'LL KNOW WHAT TO PATCH NEXT...!
AND SOON, AFTER INDY HAS STEALTHILY MADE HIS WAY BACK TO THE CATHEDRAL'S CENTRAL CHAMBER
CAREFUL, AMIGO! THE LOCAL POLICIA HAVE TAKEN AN INTEREST IN OUR HANDIWORK!
SO I SEE! LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!

SO, YOU ARE AS EAGER TO AVOID OFFICIAL ENTANGLEMENT AS I EH MY FRIEND?
LET'S JUST SAY I WORK BETTER W'THOUT IT
THEN WE MUST HURRY! THE GENTLEMEN WITH BADGES ARE MAKING A THOROUGH SEARCH! COME
--I WILL TAKE YOU TO JUAN CARLOS THE BLACKSMITH! HE WILL HELP US-- HIS COUSIN IS MARRIED TO MY SISTER!
THUS
QUICKLY! THE POLICIA ARE COMING THIS WAY!
RIGHT! I--HEY THIS PLACE SMELLS LIKE A SEWER
THAT IS BECAUSE IT IS A SEWER, SEÑOR!
GRRRG...
AND SO AS THE TWO COMPANIONS SLOG ANKLE-DEEP THROUGH TUNNELS OF STILL, STENCH-RIDDEN WATERS.
I GUESS IT'S ABOUT TIME I TOLD YOU WHY I AM HERE, YOR! I AM LOOKING FOR AN ART FACT SOMETHING CALLED THE FOURTH NAIL. I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT
O OH NO PLEASE NOT THAT! I DO KNOW SOMETHING OF TS EXISTENCE BUT IF I TOLD YOU--
--THE PAIN! I'D HAVE TO CUT OFF SMALL PART OF MY BODY THAT I WOULD MISS VERY MUCH

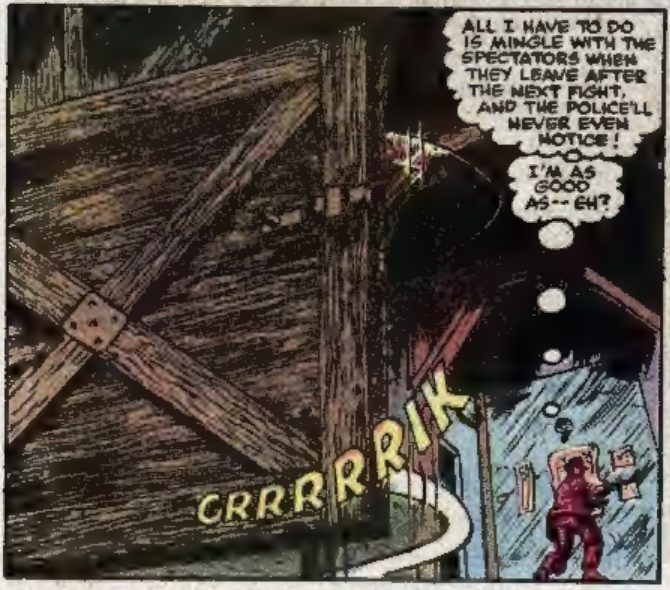
IT IS BEST FOR OUTSIDERS NOT TO SPEAK OF SUCH THINGS
BUT--
NO! PLEASE IMOY. BESIDES, WE HAVE REACHED OUR DESTINATION.
I WILL CHECK TO SEE IF THE COAST IS CLEAR
GOOD. 'CAUSE FOR THE LAST FEW BLOCKS I'VE HAD A FEELING
--THAT THERE'S MORE THAN ONE KIND OF RAT IN THIS PLACE!
WHUMPH?!
SO WHAT'S THE WORD, TORI? ALL CLEAR?
TORI ?
THAT'S FUNNY HE'S NOWHERE AROUND
I MUST'VE SCARED HIM OFF ASKIN' ABOUT THE MAN.
GYPSIES SURE ARE A SUPERSTITIOUS BUNCH NO MATTER, THOUGH-- I CAN ALWAYS TRACK HIM DOWN AGAIN
AFTER I'VE CHANGED TO SOME CLEAN CLOTHES!
20


NOT THAT THIS PLACE IS MUCH BETTER THAN THE SEWER. SMELLS LIKE ANIMALS.
AND THERE'S STRAW ALL OVER THE FLOOR. I WONDER--

--AH! SOME SORT OF POSTERS AT THE FAR END OF THE CORRIDOR. MAYBE THEY CAN GIVE ME A CLUE ABOUT WHERE I AM.

I'LL JUST RUB SOME OF THE DUST OFF SO I CAN READ THE WORDS AND-- WELL, WHAT DO YA KNOW? IT'S AN ADVERTISEMENT FOR A--

--BULLFIGHT! I MUST BE IN THE STOCK PEN OF A BULLRING! TALK ABOUT LUCK--!
TOROS


ALL I HAVE TO DO IS MINGLE WITH THE SPECTATORS WHEN THEY LEAVE AFTER THE NEXT FIGHT, AND THE POLICE'LL NEVER EVEN NOTICE!
I'M AS GOOD AS-- EH?
CRRRRRIK

B-BETTER MAKE THAT, AS GOOD AS--

Bullpen Bulletins

¡BUENOS DIAS!

Guess who was a guest of honor at the 3rd Annual *Salon del Comic y la Ilustracion*, Barcelona, Spain's huge, international comics convention? *Si, yo!* Yes, me!

Hundreds of comics professionals and thousands upon thousands of fans turned out. What a show!

Representatives of dozens of comics publishers from around the world showed up there, too. Because many of them publish translated editions of Marvel Comics, our work is known almost everywhere, and I was pleased to discover that Marvel and the Marvel creative crew are held in very high regard overseas. As Editor in Chief of Marvel, I was very warmly received and treated with a great deal of respect at the fair. I felt very proud and extremely honored!

In Spain, many Marvel titles are published by *Editorial Forum*, a very prestigious publishing house – and they do a terrific job with our stuff (as well as their own). My counterpart at *Forum*, their Editor in Chief, is a very knowledgeable, skilled and professional gentleman named Antonio Martin, with whom I spoke several times. I'd like to take this opportunity to publically declare Antonio and his crew Honorary Bullpenners!

HOME AGAIN

For about thirty seconds, then it was off to Tulsa, Oklahoma to appear at *Tulsa Con '83*, hosted by the Tulsa Believers in Comics Fandom. That, my friends, is one terrific group of people, and they throw an outstanding convention. If you're interested in joining a great, active down-right *fun* comics club, or if you'd like info on their next event, write to the club president at this address:

Larry Thomas
3836 East 21st
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74114

Oh, and by the way, Tulsa is the hometown of *EPIC Illustrated Magazine* Editorial Director, *Archie Goodwin*. He would have pouted all day if I hadn't mentioned that.

HOME AGAIN AGAIN!

For a whole couple of weeks this time. You know, there's something funny going on around this place. As you may have heard, me and *all* of the Marvel editors are going away to conventions during the month of August. That means that all of the comics which go on sale in September, bearing a January cover date, will be handled entirely by the seconds-in-command – the *assistant* editors. So, around here, the month of the September-on-sale-January-cover-date issues has become known as *Assistant Editors' Month*.

Now, those guys could, and probably *should*, just caretake the books for that one month, but rumor has it that they've planned a whole bunch of – let's say *unusual* stuff. They're trying to, in one month, *revolutionize* comics.

Apparently they've enlisted the cooperation of the artists and writers because there are a lot of very secret, closed-door meetings going on around here lately, and, nobody, but *nobody* is letting on to the editors – or me – what's planned for those January cover-date issues.

I'm not kidding. Assistant Editors' Month was an amusing notion, and we've all had some laughs talking about it, but I think it may be getting a little out of hand. I'm genuinely concerned about this, and I may have to put my foot down and put a stop to it. What do you think? What would you do?

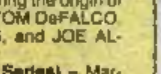
Just for your info, here's a list of the people I'm talking about:

Danny Fingeroth's assistant		Bob Budiansky's assistant	
BOB DeMATALE		MIKE HIGGINS	
Amazing Spider-Man		*Fantastic Four*	
Peter Parker		*Daredevil*	
Marvel Team-Up		*Returning Jedi*	
Kazar			
Mark Gruenwald's assistant	Carl Potts's assistant		
MIKE CARLIN	ANN NOCENTI		
Avengers	*Hulk*		
Iron Man	*Defenders*		
Thor	*Doctor Strange*		
Captain America	*Fanfare*		
	The Thing		
Ralph Macchio's assistant	Larry Hama's assistant		
BOB HARRAS	JIM OWSLEY		
Dazzler	*Conan*		
US 1	*King Conan*		
Micronauts	*Savage Sword*		
What If			
ROM			
Crystar			
Denny O'Neil's assistant	Louise Jones's assistant		
LINDA GRANT	ELIOT BROWN		
Alpha Flight	*X-Men*		
Power Man/Iron Fist	*New Mutants*		
G.I. Joe	*Star Wars*		
Moon Knight	*Indy's Comic*		

Those are the potential perpetrators – some of them you may know a little about from seeing a bit of their published writing, art, lettering, etc. – others are strictly unknown quantities to you, since all their work has been behind the scenes. Tell me, would you haul the lot of them up short and squelch their plans? Or trust them, and see what comes out in September? It may be too late already to do anything else.

Those January cover date issues may be some real one-of-a-kind collectors' items.

Anyway, stay well.



Jim Shooter

The Hype Box

THOR ANNUAL #11 — Ever wonder what it's like to grow up in Asgard? It can sure be a blast, but it certainly isn't easy, especially if you happen to be the god of thunder. ALAN ZELENETZ, BOB HALL and VINCE COLLETTA reveal the early life of the mighty **Thor** for the first time, from his birth to the appearance of **Don Blake**. Don't miss this one!

DEFENDERS #125 — A cataclysmic shake-up in the world's greatest non-team. The Defenders must disband in order to save the Earth, but is mankind ready for the *new* Defenders? Who are they? Well, three of 'em used to be **X-Men**! The rest – well, you'll have to see for yourself! In this very special double-sized issue, by J.M. DeMATTEIS, DON PERLIN, and KIM DeMULDER, with an original cover *painting* by BILL SIENKIEWICZ.

X-MEN #175 — Is Madelyne Pryor really Jean Grey? Is she **Dark Phoenix**? Are you crazy enough to even *consider* missing this issue? It is double-sized, double excitement, and PAUL SMITH's final issue of the mag before JOHN ROMITA, JR. comes aboard. Written by CHRIS CLAREMONT. Inked by BOB WIACEK.

THE FALCON #1 (Limited Series) — **The Falcon** like you've never seen him, in a story like Marvel's never done before! A hard-hitting and gritty account of life on the city streets by JIM OWSLEY, PAUL SMITH and VINCE COLLETTA.

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

- ☐ **THE THING #5**
- ☐ **DAREDEVIL #200**
- ☐ **NEW MUTANTS #9**
- ☐ **DAZZLER #29**
- ☐ **KING CONAN #19**
- ☐ **RETURN OF THE JEDI #2 (Limited Series)**
- ☐ **THE FALCON #1 (Limited Series)**
- ☐ **MOON KNIGHT SPECIAL EDITION #1** – Reprinting the original **Moon Knight** epics, by DOUG MOENCH and BILL SIENKIEWICZ, from the **Hulk Magazine.**
- ☐ **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #248**
- ☐ **CAPTAIN AMERICA #287**
- ☐ **THOR #337**
- ☐ **INDIANA JONES #11**
- ☐ **MOON KNIGHT #34**
- ☐ **MICRONAUTS #55**
- ☐ **CRYSTAR #4**
- ☐ **HAWKEYE #3 (Limited Series)**
- ☐ **INCREDIBLE HULK #269**
- ☐ **AVENGERS #237**
- ☐ **CONAN THE BARBARIAN #152**
- ☐ **MARVEL TALES #157** — Reprinting **Amazing Spider-Man #19** by STAN LEE and STEVE DITKO. "Spidey Strikes Back!"
- ☐ **X-MEN #175**
- ☐ **ROM #48**
- ☐ **POWER MAN/IRON FIST #98**
- ☐ **G.I. JOE #17**
- ☐ **CLOAK & DAGGER #2 (Limited Series)**
- ☐ **FANTASTIC FOUR #260**
- ☐ **MARVEL TEAM-UP #135** — **Spider-Man** and **Kitty Pryde**
- ☐ **IRON MAN #176**
- ☐ **DEFENDERS #125**
- ☐ **PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #84**
- ☐ **STAR WARS #77**
- ☐ **ALPHA FLIGHT #4**
- ☐ **THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE #11**
- ☐ **MARVEL TAILS #1** – Funny animals — Marvel style! Featuring the origin of the **Hulk-Bunny**! By TOM DeFALCO, MARK ARMSTRONG, and JOE ALBELO.
- ☐ **KRULL #1 (Limited Series)** – Marvel's adaptation of the Columbia Pictures summertime smash space fantasy! By DAVID MICHELINIE and BRET BLEVINS. Inks by VINCE COLLETTA.

MARVEL ANNUALS

- ☐ **IRON MAN ANNUAL #6** — Iron **Man** reduced to a pawn in the struggle between the **Eternals** and the **Deviants.**
- ☐ **THOR ANNUAL #11** – For the first time in one comic: The story of **Thor's** life, from birth to the arrival of **Don Blake.**

MARVEL MAGAZINES

- ☐ **SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #93**
- ☐ **MARVEL AGE #8**
- ☐ **ELIP #1**
- ☐ **MARVEL FANFARE #11**

EPIC COMICS

- ☐ **EPIC ILLUSTRATED #20**
- ☐ **DREADSTAR #6**

"--DEAD!"
THE EXCITING CONCLUSION TO
THE FOURTH NAIL!

READERS OF THE LOST ARK

MARVEL COMICS GROUP
387 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10016

LOUISE JONES
EDITOR
BUDY BROOKS
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Dear Marvel,

First, I must make a confession. I am one of the last 3 or 4 people who have never seen "Raiders Of The Lost Ark". (Okay, who's the wise guy screaming "Blasphemy!"? Look, Spielberg, I'll get to it eventually, honest! Now will you please put that bullwhip away?) I picked up INDIANA JONES #1 solely on the basis of the Byrne art, then found out the story was pretty good as well. When I realized that John wasn't sticking around for long, I had doubts about the book's longevity. Then it was announced that David Michelinie would be writing it. Since I loved his stints on IRON MAN and THE AVENGERS, I decided to stick it out a while longer. And I'm very glad I did.

There is a feeling of fun here, of not taking oneself too seriously, that is infectious. Take the river scene in issue #7 for example. In the span of five pages, Indy and Marion face 4 (8 if you count the Nazis) life-and-death situations, and deliver twice as many wisecracks. Being a person who considers the friendly insult an art form, this is great stuff.

Folks, you've made a believer out of me. Keep up the great work. Now, if you'll excuse me, "Raiders" was just re-released here and the gentleman with the whip just won't leave me alone. Steve, I'm *going* already! Lighten up!

Ken Ahlstrand
2855 A St. #10
San Diego, CA 92102

Hope you enjoyed "Raiders" as much as all of us around here did and, uh, say hello to Steve for us, okay?

Dear Editors:

I usually don't write to comics, but I had to commend you guys on your FURTHER ADVENTURES OF INDIANA JONES. You're doing a great job! I especially enjoyed issues #4 and #5. Karen Mays had something that hasn't been seen much in the heroines of today — femininity. Even though she's only been gone for a couple of issues, I already miss her. I'd like to see more of her kind in the future.

Issue #7 was great. The sequence in Africa with Indy and Marion in danger (hippopotamus to crocodiles to boa constrictor to quicksand) was nothing short of spectacular! Keep up the good work!

Pamela Stout
3805 N.W. 51st
Oklahoma City, OK 73112

More characters like Karen Mays, huh? Somehow, we don't think *Marion* would like that too much. But then again, it might make for some *real* interesting stories. As a matter of fact, there's this overly amorous transfer student in issue #13 who — well, we don't want to give everything away, Pam, but we will be keeping your suggestions in mind.

Dear Editor,

After reading THE FURTHER ADVENTURES OF INDIANA JONES for the last six months, I felt it was about time you knew how I felt about the way you handle Indy. Not that you haven't heard it from countless other readers, but I like the way you've kept Indy's adventures different and exciting. I've been reading comics for over ten years and I can't remember the last time I looked forward to buying a comic book the way I look forward to the next issue of INDIANA JONES.

If you guys can keep the stories as real and as exciting as they've been so far, I'll be reading INDIANA JONES until I die, or he dies, whichever comes first.

Brandon Kralik
380 Pashuta Drive
Gunnison, CO 81230

Let's hope *neither* of you shuffles off this mortal coil too soon, Brandon. After all, Indy's too resourceful to buy the farm just yet, and you're too smart. How do we know you're smart? Well, you read INDIANA JONES, don't you...?

Dear Writers Of The Lost Pulp,

Kerry Gammill turned in some mighty fine artwork in issue #7. Slick and clear stuff, complimenting Michelinie's fast moving writing. This could be the perfect team for this magazine. The action sequences were made extra gripping because of the cinematic approach you guys are using. Keep it up.

Of course, I've got a few suggestions to go along with my compliments. First of all, I'm already weary of Nazis as villains. Why not whip up a few '30s pulp-style criminal masterminds? You know, the kind with mysterious powers and legions of fanatical followers.

Also, you might keep a careful eye on the amount of humor in the stories. The "Raiders" movie had some humor, but it was carefully balanced with seriousness. When everybody's yukking it up the suspense of a dangerous situation can really be impaired.

Lastly, two-parters are great for cliff-hanging excitement, but so are three- and even four-parters. I figure the longer the story, the more suspense you can build.

Here's to headlong adventure and ancient mysteries!

Chris Hocking
(no address given)

You've anticipated us, Chris. Although Nazi Germany provided the main threat in "Raiders", and will continue to have a strong presence in TFAOIJ, this issue features the premiere appearance of a brand new master villain. He's wealthy, powerful, obsessed and is aided by a bunch of the most fiercely fanatical followers you ever saw! Hope ya like him.

Dear Louise and Danny,

About 2 weeks ago, I went to the local magazine shop in search of a good comic. And boy, was I lucky! Not only did I find the top quality STAR WARS, but issue #4 of INDIANA JONES as well. I read the latter with delight, and patiently waited for the next issue as I thoroughly enjoyed issue 4. I was able to get the next three issues of your mag plus issue #2 because I know of an excellent comics shop which can get American comics about three months before they officially come out in England. Unfortunately, I can only go there on holidays. INDIANA JONES is, in my opinion, the best comic I have ever read. Please print this letter — it would be an honour!

Sunil Kapur
10 The Drive
Sharnebrook
London, England

The honor's ours, Sunil. It's always a kick to know that our efforts are appreciated in other countries, and it's especially pleasing on this book since our main character, Indiana Jones, is such a citizen of the world.

Dear Marvel,

Just wondering... is there any way I can obtain back issues of THE FURTHER ADVENTURES OF INDIANA JONES? I read a friend's copies of issues 5 & 6, and I bought issue 7 — you've really left Indy and Marion in a jam!! Unfortunately, however, I missed your adaptation of "Raiders" and the early issues of TFAOIJ. I really love what you're doing with Indy. Keep up the great work and please let me know if there's any way I can get back issues. Say "hello" to Indy for me, and also to your very talented Marvel staff.

Debbie Caserta
148a Howard Avenue
Ansonia, CT 06401

The staff tosses a great big "howdy" back at ya, Debbie. Unfortunately, though, Marvel doesn't have the facilities for providing back issues. If there's not a comics specialty shop in your area, you might want to contact some of the shops that advertise in these pages — they're good people, and will probably be able to help you. As for not missing any future issues, your safest bet would be to take advantage of the subscription form elsewhere in this issue. 'Cause if you miss us, we'll miss you.